

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3082

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5192

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DAVIS NATHANIEL) PFOR XA CG

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS

REFS: STATE 137372 AND KINSHASA 5166

1. IT SEEMS TO ME IN LIGHT DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED KINSHASA 5166 WE SHOULD DELAY INFORMING GOZ OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS' TRAVEL PLANS AT LEAST UNTIL WE KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT GOZ REACTION OR LACK THEREOF.

2. ONE COULD, I SUPPOSE, CONCLUDE THAT WAY TO DEMONSTRATE OUR REAL INTEREST AND OUR LACK OF CONCERN FOR POTENTIAL IMPACT ON GOZ-USG RELATIONS OF COUP REPORTS WOULD BE PRECISELY TO INFORM GOZ OF DAVIS TRIP AND TO SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH MOBUTU, ETC. ON OTHER HAND, THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT INDICATES MOBUTU REALLY FEARS WHAT I AM UP TO HERE AND THAT HE BELIEVES CANARDS ABOUT DAVIS AND HINTON "DESTABILIZATION" EFFORTS IN LATIN AMERICA. THERE IS ALICE-IN-WONDERLAND QUALITY, WITH MACABRE TWIST, TO EVENTS AND ALLEGATIONS OF PAST SIX MONTHS. IF MOBUTU REALLY SUSPECTS US OF PROMOTING ECONOMIC SABOTAGE THROUGH INDUCING BANKS TO WITHHOLD CREDIT AND FOMENTING PLOTS, EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW SUCH IDEAS ARE FANTASIES, WE STILL HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

3. I AM READY, OF COURSE, TO PROCEED, SINCE AS I SAY DAVIS VISIT MIGHT BE EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED TO CLEAR AIR.

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ON OTHER HAND, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF DEPARTMENT WOULD

THINK IT THROUGH AGAIN IN LIGHT YESTERDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS
(KINSHASA REFTTEL) AND INSTRUCT ME FURTHER.

4. IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT ONE CANNOT GET
COMMITMENT FOR MEETING WITH MOBUTU UNTIL LAST MOMENT.
EASUM VISIT WAS AN EXCEPTION BUT IN THAT CASE I WAS ABLE
TO RAISE IT IN FACE TO FACE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT
AND HAS HIS WORD THAT HE WOULD SEE EASUM IN LUBUMBASHI.
EVEN THEN, HOWEVER, VARIOUS OTHER CHARACTERS UNTIL LAST
MOMENT WERE TELLING US THAT WE MIGHT NOT SEE PRESIDENT.
APPOINTMENT FOR JIM KEOGH OF USIA WAS REQUESTED THROUGH
ALL RIGHT CHANNELS BUT FELL IN PLACE SAME DAY AS MEETING
AND ONCE AGAIN WE WERE TOLD BY ONE IMPORTANT MOBUTU
CONFIDANT ONLY HOUR BEFORE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MEETING.
WE WERE NOT CERTAIN WE WOULD BE RECEIVED UNTIL IN FACT
WE WERE RECEIVED. TEMPELSMAN HAD SIMILAR EXPERIENCE
THIS PAST WEEKEND. ON OTHER HAND, I BELIEVE FOREIGN
MINISTER BULA AND PROBABLY BISENGIMANA AS WELL WOULD SEE
DAVIS AND IF DAVIS WANTS TO RUN RISK, ODDS WOULD
FAVOR HIS BEING RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT.
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